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*A note upon the disturbance of the sense of taste after the amputation of the tongue*, Frederick Peterson, M. D., Medical Record Vol. XXXVIII. p. 230.

There has always been great difficulty in tracing the course of the nerves of taste, and the distribution of the final taste filaments. It has been pretty well demonstrated that there are special areas of the tongue where certain tastes may be perceived and others that are susceptible to different tastes. The author has had an exceptional opportunity for making some experiments on the phenomena of taste, upon two patients whose tongues had been removed.

The first patient could, when liquids were given him to swallow, taste bitter, sweet and salt substances, but not acid substances. Special tests, made on definite localities, resulted in finding that bitterness was feebly perceived by the soft palate, strongly by the posterior wall of the pharynx, while sweetness was not perceived at all, except on the posterior wall of the pharynx. Saltiness was not perceived either by the palate or the pharynx, but probably by the surface of the epiglottis. The galvanic current, when applied to the parts, produced no sensation of taste.

Another noticeable fact was that the sense of smell was entirely abolished after the removal of the tongue, so that the patient could distinguish no odor whatever even in such strong smelling substances as tar, iodiform or oil of wintergreen. In the case of the second patient, whose tongue had been removed, besides the inability to distinguish acids, sweets could not be at all recognized.

*The education of the sense of smell*, Schneider.—Medical News, Vol. XXXVIII. 452.

Comparatively little has been done in making use of the sense of smell in diagnosis, for the reason that so far no one has been able to classify or describe the different odors. The author looks forward to the day when it will be possible to accumulate and transmit experience in the matter of smell as we now do in reference to the other senses.

*Sur les minimums perceptibles de quelques odeurs*, M. Jacques Passy.—Comptes rendus, Vol. CXIV. 306.

The experiments made are for the purpose of finding out the smallest amount of any specified odor that is perceptible in a liter of air. A set of standard solutions is prepared, each containing one hundredth as much of the substance as the previous one in the series. Then one drop of the last dilution is introduced into the liter flask, the bottom of which has been previously warmed, to render evaporation complete. After waiting long enough to allow the odor to diffuse itself through the flask, the experimenter smells of its contents and if he cannot distinguish the odor, he repeats the experiment with the next stronger solution, till it is just possible to distinguish the odor. When greater accuracy is demanded, several intermediate solutions may be made up between the last two solutions tested. This method has been proven to possess several advantages, not the least of which is the fact that the observer can make the tests under normal conditions. The alcohol employed should be absolutely pure or an error may be introduced.

The following results show the minimum quantity that is perceptible in a liter of air; the results being expressed in thousandths of a milligram:—